

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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CINCLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226280

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, UK

SUBJECT: ALLIANCE COOPERATIVE DEFENSE EFFORTS

REF: USNATO 4920 DTG 201540Z SEP 76

1. REFTEL DESCRIBES WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN QTE INCREASINGLY
MINIMALIST POSITION UNQTE BY UK REPS IN NATO DEFENSE
PLANNING. SPECIFIC OCCASION PROMPTING THIS CHARACTERIZA-
TION WAS EVIDENTLY INSTRUCTED POSITION TAKEN BY UK REP
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IN EWG MEETING DISCUSSING SCOPE OF A REPORT TO BE SUB-

MITTED TO DPC MINISTERS ON COOPERATIVE DEFENSE EFFORTS IN NATO.

2. WE CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE IN DECEMBER A REPORT ON QTE ALLIANCE COOPERATION: RATIONALIZATION OF DEFENSE EFFORTS UNQTE WHICH WOULD, TO THE EXTENT THAT EWG AND DPC TIME AND EFFORT PERMITS, STAND AS A REPORT OF A SUPERVISORY BODY ON THIS GENERAL FIELD. WE BELIEVE THAT A USEFUL REPORT CAN IN FACT BE PREPARED TO THIS PURPOSE THIS FALL WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH OTHER IMPORTANT DEFENSE PLANNING ACTIVITY IN NATO. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE AND WELCOME UK SUPPORT IN THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY ESSENCE OF PARA 2 ABOVE TO APPROPRIATE UK AUTHORITIES, ON 14 SEPTEMBER IF POSSIBLE.

ROBINSON

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